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SENATE RESOLUTION 144
By Norris

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Laura Kessler on being named a Distinguished Finalist for the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

WHEREAS, members of this General Assembly are pleased and proud to honor those young Tennesseans who give unselfishly of their time and energy to serve their communities through volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Laura Kessler, an Honor Student at Germantown High School, has achieved recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a Distinguished Finalist in the Seventh Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, all public and private middle level and high schools in the country, along with all Girl Scout Councils and county 4-H organizations, were eligible to nominate a student or

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member for a local award this past November; local honorees were then reviewed by state-level judges, who selected State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kessler will receive an engraved bronze medallion at a celebratory ceremony held in the Germantown area; and

WHEREAS, as the Founder and President of Maternal League Teens, an off-shoot of The Material League of Memphis, Laura has directed over seventy girls in various charitable endeavors which have benefited disadvantaged mothers and babies in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, under her conscientious and astute leadership, Maternal League Teens have raised funds for the Methodist Hospital N.I.C.U. and its neediest patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, as President of the Beta Club at Germantown High School, Laura Kessler organized donations from her fellow students for Hope House, serving H.I.V. affected families, as well as for the Ronald McDonald House; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kessler's enthusiasm and hard work at Germantown High School have earned her numerous honors including the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award, the FedEx Youth Leadership Institute Award, membership in Bridge Builders, and membership in the National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable young woman has also served as a Student Volunteer with Germantown Parks and Recreation, helping in their social activities program for handicapped teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Laura's significant achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her parents, Frank and Cindy Kessler, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, she epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean and she takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the viability of our lives together as citizens of Tennessee and of our local communities, as well as the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Laura Kessler who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the contributions of our best and brightest young people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this legislative body hereby congratulates Laura Kessler upon being named a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognizes her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit, and extends to her our best wishes for happiness and every success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.